



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
District of North Dakota

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Former BIA Corrections Officer Pleads Guilty to Sexual Abuse of a Ward

MINOT - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on July 19, 2010, **Judson P. Elk**, 37, of Belcourt, North Dakota, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of sexual abuse of a ward.

In August 2009 Elk was employed as a corrections officer at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Detention Center in Belcourt. During his working hours, Elk engaged in a sexual act with an inmate at the detention center. The activity was discovered when the inmate's cellmate came forward with information about the event.

The charge of sexual abuse of a ward carries a statutory maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the BIA Professional Standards Division and BIA - Turtle Mountain Agency.

Sentencing for Elk has been scheduled for October 18, 2010, in United States District Court in Minot, North Dakota, at 11:00 a.m.

Assistant United States Attorney Rick Volk is prosecuting the case.

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